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EXAMINER

VU, THONG H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2142

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/915,934

Applicant(s)

FOUQUET ET AL

Examiner

Thong H. Vu

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Claims 1-27 are pending.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 filed 5/25/05 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Double Patenting***

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-27 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-28 of copending Application No. 09/915,656. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not yet been patented.

The subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in the referenced copending application and would be covered by any patent granted on that copending application since the referenced copending application and the instant application are claiming common subject matter, as follows:

(09/915,656) Claim 1. A network for communicating a message, the network comprising topographic network devices and communication links interconnecting the topographic network devices, the topographic network devices each having a physical location represented by a topographic coordinate set and having a network address that includes the topographic coordinate set.

Claim 2. a global positioning system receiver at least temporarily connected to ones of the topographic network devices to supply the topographic coordinate set thereto.

Claim 3. each of the topographic network devices is connected to at least one other of the topographic network devices and includes means for transmitting its topographic coordinate set to the at least one other of the topographic network devices.

Claim 4. each of the topographic network devices is connected to at least one other of the topographic network devices and includes means for receiving a topographic coordinate set from each of the at least one other of the topographic network devices.

Claim 5. ones of the topographic network devices capable of originating the message for transmittal through the network to another of the topographic network devices as a destination network device each include a topographic addressing engine that operates to include the topographic coordinate set of the destination network device in the message.

Claim 6. the message includes the topographic coordinate set of a destination network device as a destination coordinate set, the destination network device being one of the topographic network devices; and a one of the topographic network devices as an intermediate network device, upon receiving the message, operates to route the message to another of the topographic network devices, the other of the network devices being physically closer to the destination network device than the intermediate topographic network device.

Claim 8. additional network devices and additional communication links, the additional communication links connecting the additional network devices to ones of the topographic network devices, the additional network devices having conventional network addresses lacking topographic coordinate sets.

Claim 10. the other of the topographic network devices is associated with the destination network device by being directly connected thereto.

Claim 11. the destination network address includes a domain name;

(Application. Claim 1). A method for establishing a network for communicating a message, the method comprising:

providing a network including topographic network devices and communication link interconnecting the topographic network devices, the topographic network devices each having a physical location represented by a topographic coordinate set; and for each one of the topographic network devices: assigning to the one of the topographic network devices a network address that includes the topographic coordinate set thereof,

transmitting the topographic coordinate set of the one of the topographic network devices to the topographic network devices directly connected thereto, and receiving and storing the topographic coordinate set at least one of the topographic network devices directly connected thereto.

Claim 3. the topographic network devices include a source network device, a destination network device and an intermediate network device, and ones of the topographic network devices, including the intermediate network device, have stored therein the topographic coordinate sets of at least one of the topographic network devices directly connected thereto as respective connected device coordinate sets; and transmitting the message from the source network device to the destination network device, the message including the topographic coordinate set of the destination network device as a destination coordinate set, including: receiving the message at the intermediate network device, identifying, from the topographic coordinate set of the destination network device and the connected device coordinate sets stored in the intermediate network device, a one of the topographic network devices directly connected to the intermediate network device that is physically closer to the destination network device than the intermediate network device, and transmitting the message from the intermediate network device to the identified one of the topographic network devices.

Claim 8. (a) a device type indication, and (b) additional topographic information, of the one of the topographic network device to ones of the topographic network devices directly connected thereto.

Claim 18. the destination network address includes a domain name;

Furthermore, there is no apparent reason why applicant would be prevented from presenting claims corresponding to those of the instant application in the other copending application. See *In re Schneller*, 397 F.2d 350, 158 USPQ 210 (CCPA 1968). See also MPEP § 804.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Neill [4,359,733].

5. As per claim 1, O'Neil discloses a method for establishing a network for communicating a message, the method comprising:

providing a network including topographic network devices (i.e.: an airplane) and communication link interconnecting the topographic network devices (i.e.: GPS system), the topographic network devices each having a physical location represented by a topographic coordinate set (i.e.: longitude, latitude) [O'Neil, col 3 lines 60, col 17 line 28, col 22 line 10; topographic information, col 27 line 53]; and

for each one of the topographic network devices:

assigning to the one of the topographic network devices a network address that includes the topographic coordinate set thereof [O'Neil, the unique address assigned to the aircraft or network device, col 19 lines 35-40],

transmitting the topographic coordinate set of the one of the topographic network devices to the topographic network devices directly connected thereto [O'Neil, transmit signals or the topologic coordinate set directly, col 39 lines 40-52], and receiving and storing the topographic coordinate set at least one of the topographic network devices directly connected thereto [O'Neil, received and store signals directly, col 26 lines 45-67].

6. As per claim 2, O'Neil discloses transmitting, in response to receiving the topographic coordinate set, a topographic coordinate set from each of the at least one of the topographic network devices; and receiving and storing the topographic coordinate set from the each of the at least one of the topographic network devices at the one of the topographic network devices as a respective connected device coordinate set [O'Neil, transmit signals or the topologic coordinate set directly, col 39 lines 40-52; received and store signals directly, col 26 lines 45-67].

7. As per claim 3, O'Neil discloses the topographic network devices include a source network device, a destination network device and an intermediate network device [O'Neil, Ground station computer, col 46 line 1], and ones of the topographic network devices, including the intermediate network device, have stored therein the

topographic coordinate sets of at least one of the topographic network devices directly connected thereto as respective connected device coordinate sets [O'Neil, received and store signals directly, col 26 lines 45-67]; and

transmitting the message from the source network device to the destination network device, the message including the topographic coordinate set of the destination network device as a destination coordinate set [O'Neil, transmit signals or the topologic coordinate set directly, col 39 lines 40-52], including:

receiving the message at the intermediate network device, identifying, from the topographic coordinate set of the destination network device and the connected device coordinate sets stored in the intermediate network device, a one of the topographic network devices directly connected to the intermediate network device that is physically closer to the destination network device than the intermediate network device, and transmitting the message from the intermediate network device to the identified one of the topographic network devices [O'Neil, transmit signals or the topologic coordinate set directly, col 39 lines 40-52; received and store signals directly, col 26 lines 45-67].

8. As per claim 4, O'Neil discloses providing a global positioning system receiver; co-locating the global positioning system receiver and the one of the topographic network devices; and determining the topographic coordinate set of the one of the topographic network devices using the global positioning system (GPS) receiver [O'Neil, GPS, col 3 lines 60].

9. As per claim 5, O'Neil discloses assigning a network address to the one of the topographic network devices includes:

providing a map; determining the topographic coordinate set of the one of the topographic network devices using the map as inherent feature of topographic information [O'Neil, col 27 lines 50-55]; and

inputting the topographic coordinate set into the one of the topographic network devices [O'Neil, the unique address assigned to the aircraft or network device, col 19 lines 35-40].

10. As per claim 6, O'Neil discloses inserting the topographic coordinate set into a packet configured for transmission through the network; and transmitting the packet through the network to the topographic network devices connected to the one of the topographic network devices [O'Neil, transmit signals or the topologic coordinate set directly, col 39 lines 40-52; received and store signals directly, col 26 lines 45-67].

11. As per claim 7, O'Neil discloses receiving the packet including the topographic coordinate set at the at least one of the topographic network devices as a receiving network device; sending the packet through the receiving network device; extracting the topographic coordinate set from the packet; and storing the topographic coordinate set as a connected device coordinate set [O'Neil, transmit signals or the topologic coordinate set directly, col 39 lines 40-52; received and store signals directly, col 26 lines 45-67].



12. As per claim 8, O'Neil discloses transmitting at least one of (a) a device type indication, and (b) additional topographic information, of the one of the topographic network device to ones of the topographic network devices directly connected thereto [O'Neil, additional equipment, additional repeater, col 19 lines 1-50].

13. As per claim 9, O'Neil discloses dividing the network into regions; assigning to each of the regions at least one of the topographic network devices as a regional network device [O'Neil, geographic information, topographic information, col 27 lines 1-55]; interconnecting the regional network devices of the regions by high- capacity ones of the communication link [O'Neil, network, col 3 lines 36-52; satellite link, col 4 lines 1-22]; and supplying to ones of the topographic network devices in each one of the regions additional topographic information indicating the topographic coordinate set of the regional network device of the one of the regions and a topographic extent of at least some of the regions [O'Neil, geographic information, topographic information, col 27 lines 1-55].

14. As per claim 10, O'Neil discloses routing the message from one of the topographic network devices located in a first one of the regions to another of the topographic network devices located in a second one of the regions via the regional network device of the first one of the regions and the regional network device of the

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second one of the regions [O'Neil, geographic information, topographic information, col 27 lines 1-55].

15. As per claim 11 contains the similar limitations set for claim 1. Therefore claim 11 is rejected for the same rationale set forth in claim 1.

16. As per claim 12, O'Neil discloses identifying one of the topographic network devices, the one of the topographic network devices that is physically closest to the destination network device is identified [O'Neil, preferably at a longitude close to that of the stationary satellite, col 15 lines 3-26].

17. As per claim 13, O'Neil discloses identifying one of the topographic network devices includes performing a topographic calculation using the destination coordinate set and the connected device coordinate sets stored in the intermediate network device [O'Neil, Ground station computer, col 46 line 1].

18. As per claim 14, O'Neil discloses in providing the network, the ones of the topographic network devices additionally store at least one of

(a) a device type indication, and (b) additional topographic information, of the ones of the topographic network devices directly connected thereto; and in identifying one of the topographic network devices, the one of the topographic network devices is identified additionally in response to at least one of the device type information and the

additional topographic information [O'Neil, additional equipment, additional repeater, col 19 lines 1-50].

19. As per claim 15, O'Neil discloses providing to ones of the topographic network devices, including the intermediate network device, additional topographic information relating to the network [O'Neil, additional equipment, additional repeater, col 19 lines 1-50]; and in identifying one of the topographic network devices, the one of the topographic network devices is identified in response to the additional topographic information in lieu of the destination coordinate set [O'Neil, geographic information, topographic information, col 27 lines 1-55].

20. As per claim 16, O'Neil discloses identifying one of the topographic network devices, in lieu of being physically closer to the destination network device than the intermediate network device, the one of the topographic network devices is connected at least indirectly to the intermediate network device by one of the communication links at least one of (a) having a higher transmission capacity, and (b) carrying less network traffic [O'Neil, preferably at a longitude close to that of the stationary satellite, col 15 lines 3-26].

21. As per claim 17, O'Neil discloses receiving the message at the intermediate network device proxy server, and in response to the destination network address, providing the topographic coordinate set of one of the topographic network devices as

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the destination coordinate set, the one of the topographic network devices being associated with the destination network device [O'Neil, geographic information, topographic information, col 27 lines 1-55]..

22. As per claim 18, O'Neil discloses the destination network address includes a domain name; and providing the destination coordinate set includes providing the topographic coordinate set of one of (a) the one of the topographic network devices directly connected to the destination network device, and (b) one of the topographic network devices associated with the domain name [O'Neil, geographic information, topographic information, col 27 lines 1-55].

23. As per claim 19, O'Neil discloses determining, from the destination coordinate set, whether the destination network device and the intermediate network device are located in a different ones of the regions, and when the destination network device and the intermediate network device are located in a different ones of the regions, routing the message from the intermediate network device located in a first one of the regions to the destination network device located in a second one of the regions via the regional network device of the first one of the regions and the regional network device of the second one of the regions [O'Neil, geographic information, topographic information, col 27 lines 1-55].

24. As per claims 20-27 contain the similar limitations set for claims 1-19. Therefore claims 21-27 are rejected for the same rationale set forth in claims 1-19.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

25. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shaffer et al [Shaffer 6,748,426 B1].

26. As per claim 1, Shaffer discloses a method for establishing a network for communicating a message, the method comprising:

providing a network including topographic network devices and communication link interconnecting the topographic network devices, the topographic network devices each having a physical location represented by a topographic coordinate set [Shaffer, longitude, latitude coordinate pair, col 5 lines 32-col 56 line 2]; and

for each one of the topographic network devices:

assigning to the one of the topographic network devices a network address that includes the topographic coordinate set thereof [Shaffer, assigning the standardized address, col 5 lines 32-col 56 line 2],

transmitting the topographic coordinate set of the one of the topographic network devices to the topographic network devices directly connected thereto, and receiving and storing the topographic coordinate set at least one of the topographic network devices directly connected thereto [Shaffer, directly communication, col 10 lines 52-65].

27. As per claim 2, Shaffer discloses transmitting, in response to receiving the topographic coordinate set, a topographic coordinate set from each of the at least one of the topographic network devices; and receiving and storing the topographic coordinate set from the each of the at least one of the topographic network devices at the one of the topographic network devices as a respective connected device coordinate set [Shaffer, longitude, latitude coordinate pair, col 5 lines 32-col 56 line 2].

28. As per claim 3, Shaffer discloses the topographic network devices include a source network device, a destination network device and an intermediate network device (i.e.: a merchant server), and ones of the topographic network devices, including the intermediate network device, have stored therein the topographic coordinate sets of at least one of the topographic network devices directly connected thereto as respective connected device coordinate sets [Shaffer, a merchant server 20, Fig 1]; and

transmitting the message from the source network device to the destination network device, the message including the topographic coordinate set of the destination network device as a destination coordinate set [Shaffer, directly communication, col 10 lines 52-65], including:

receiving the message at the intermediate network device, identifying, from the topographic coordinate set of the destination network device and the connected device coordinate sets stored in the intermediate network device, a one of the topographic network devices directly connected to the intermediate network device that is physically closer to the destination network device than the intermediate network device, and transmitting the message from the intermediate network device to the identified one of the topographic network devices [Shaffer, directly communication, col 10 lines 52-65].

29. As per claim 4, Shaffer discloses providing a global positioning system receiver; co-locating the global positioning system receiver and the one of the topographic network devices; and determining the topographic coordinate set of the one of the topographic network devices using the global positioning system (GPS) receiver [Shaffer, GPS, col 6 lines 4-29; col 10 lines 52-65].

30. As per claim 5, Shaffer discloses assigning a network address to the one of the topographic network devices includes:

providing a map [Shaffer, a map server, col 12 lines 1-16]; determining the topographic coordinate set of the one of the topographic network devices using the map; and inputting the topographic coordinate set into the one of the topographic network devices [Shaffer, longitude, latitude coordinate pair, col 5 lines 32-col 56 line 2].

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31. As per claim 6, Shaffer discloses inserting the topographic coordinate set into a packet configured for transmission through the network; and

transmitting the packet through the network to the topographic network devices connected to the one of the topographic network devices [Shaffer, directly communication, col 10 lines 52-65].

32. As per claim 7, Shaffer discloses receiving the packet including the topographic coordinate set at the at least one of the topographic network devices as a receiving network device;

sending the packet through the receiving network device [Shaffer, directly communication, col 10 lines 52-65];

extracting the topographic coordinate set from the packet; and storing the topographic coordinate set as a connected device coordinate set [Shaffer, longitude, latitude coordinate pair, col 5 lines 32-col 56 line 2]

33. As per claim 8, Shaffer discloses transmitting at least one of

(a) a device type indication [Shaffer, various type of information, col 10 lines 1-16], and (b) additional topographic information, of the one of the topographic network device to ones of the topographic network devices directly connected thereto [Shaffer, longitude, latitude coordinate pair, col 5 lines 32-col 56 line 2].



34. As per claim 9, Shaffer discloses dividing the network into regions; assigning to each of the regions at least one of the topographic network devices as a regional network device; interconnecting the regional network devices of the regions by high-capacity ones of the communication link [Shaffer, FDDI, col 4 lines 32-47]; and supplying to ones of the topographic network devices in each one of the regions additional topographic information indicating the topographic coordinate set of the regional network device of the one of the regions and a topographic extent of at least some of the regions [Shaffer, a geographic region near the business, col 6 lines 59-67].

35. As per claim 10, Shaffer discloses routing the message from one of the topographic network devices located in a first one of the regions to another of the topographic network devices located in a second one of the regions via the regional network device of the first one of the regions and the regional network device of the second one of the regions [Shaffer, routing decision, col 12 lines 59-67].

36. As per claim 11 contains the similar limitations set for claim 1. Therefore claim 11 is rejected for the same rationale set forth in claim 1.

37. As per claim 12, Shaffer discloses identifying one of the topographic network devices, the one of the topographic network devices that is physically closest to the destination network device is identified [Shaffer, the closest location, col 6 lines 4-29].

38. As per claim 13, Shaffer discloses identifying one of the topographic network devices includes performing a topographic calculation using the destination coordinate set and the connected device coordinate sets stored in the intermediate network device [Shaffer, calculation the longitude and latitude, col 6 lines 4-29].

39. As per claim 14, Shaffer discloses in providing the network, the ones of the topographic network devices additionally store at least one of

(a) a device type indication [Shaffer, various type of information, col 10 lines 1-16], and (b) additional topographic information, of the ones of the topographic network devices directly connected thereto [Shaffer, additional variables, col 23 lines 1-7; and in identifying one of the topographic network devices, the one of the topographic network devices is identified additionally in response to at least one of the device type information and the additional topographic information [Shaffer, other type of hardware, col 10 lines 33-51].

40. As per claim 15, Shaffer discloses providing to ones of the topographic network devices, including the intermediate network device, additional topographic information relating to the network; and in identifying one of the topographic network devices, the one of the topographic network devices is identified in response to the additional topographic information in lieu of the destination coordinate set [Shaffer, calculation the longitude and latitude, col 6 lines 4-29; additional variables, col 23 lines 1-7].

41. As per claim 16, Shaffer discloses identifying one of the topographic network devices, in lieu of being physically closer to the destination network device than the intermediate network device, the one of the topographic network devices is connected at least indirectly to the intermediate network device by one of the communication links at least one of (a) having a higher transmission capacity, and (b) carrying less network traffic as inherent feature of the closest location [Shaffer, the closest location, col 6 lines 4-29].

42. As per claim 17, Shaffer discloses receiving the message at the intermediate network device proxy server, and in response to the destination network address, providing the topographic coordinate set of one of the topographic network devices as the destination coordinate set, the one of the topographic network devices being associated with the destination network device [Shaffer, address translation server, col 11 lines 58-67].

43. As per claim 18, Shaffer discloses the destination network address includes a domain name; and providing the destination coordinate set includes providing the topographic coordinate set of one of (a) the one of the topographic network devices directly connected to the destination network device, and (b) one of the topographic network devices associated with the domain name [Shaffer, an URL contains domain or server name, col 12 lines 17-42].

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44. As per claim 19, Shaffer discloses determining, from the destination coordinate set, whether the destination network device and the intermediate network device are located in a different ones of the regions, and when the destination network device and the intermediate network device are located in a different ones of the regions, routing the message from the intermediate network device located in a first one of the regions to the destination network device located in a second one of the regions via the regional network device of the first one of the regions and the regional network device of the second one of the regions [Shaffer, routing decision, col 12 lines 59-67].

45. As per claims 20-27 contain the similar limitations set for claims 1-19. Therefore claims 21-27 are rejected for the same rationale set forth in claims 1-19.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thong Vu*, whose telephone number is (571)-272-3904. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Andrew Caldwell*, can be reached at (571) 272-3868. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PMR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Thong Vu*  
*Patent Examiner*  
*Art Unit 2142*

